The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

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Volume 25, Number 9 **THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** **September 2025**

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025, early arrivals from 6:00 PM

Club Meeting Calendar for 2025

Jan. 16	May 15	**Sep. 18**
Feb. 20	June 19	Oct. 16
Mar. 20	July 17	Nov. 20
Apr. 17	Aug. 21	Dec. 18

Collecting Early American Copper Large Cents

A 1794 Liberty Cap Large Cent, S-31, graded VF-30 by PCGS
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

Back in the 1980s, the writer became attracted to collecting early American copper coins, but even then, many of the early dates first struck in 1793 thru 1814 were already fairly expensive, especially in the higher grades; so obtaining a coin graded only VF-30 such as the 1794 Liberty Cap Large cent shown above was virtually impossible to obtain by a neophyte collector back then. The coin shown above was actually acquired away back in 2004 from our own club Secretary and fellow numismatist, John Attaway at ***Clein's Rare Coins*** when the store was located on 9th Street in downtown Augusta. John was showing it to the store-owner Wayne Damron--the former owner and father of Steve Damron, proprietor of Clein's in Martinez today--when the writer--being an avid collector of early American coppers,--asked John to show him the coin. **It was encased in a PCGS holder, graded only VF-20,** yet still appeared fairly attractive for the grade so low. Nevertheless, he liked the specimen's appearance and purchased the coin at the price John offered which "made his day"!

Soon afterwards, during the **Show and Tell** session held at the **Stephen James Central Savannah River Area Club** meeting he displayed the coin in the holder and the late Jim Barry looked it over and said, "**It's a really nice coin but looks sharper than a VF-20. You should send it back to PCGS and see if they will grade it higher";** so the writer decided to do just that and it came back in a **VF-30** holder. The reported mintage of the coin was **918,521** which included three different minor Head types struck in **1793, 1794 and 1795** with the **1794** type as shown being the most common and least costly, although not cheap! Thanks to, John Attaway and Jim Barry; the writer acquired a lovely example of this early United States large cent!

Collecting Early U.S. Copper Large Cents

A 1798 Draped Bust large Cent, S-167, R1 graded VF-30
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

In mid 1796, the **Liberty Cap** design type (as shown on the left) was replaced with the **Draped Bust** type large cent by our first actual chief Engraver, Robert Scot. Of the four late 18th Century dates (1796 thru 1799), the **1798** issue was the most common with a reported mintage of **1,841,745** released by the Philadelphia Mint that year, so the coin was most affordable of the first four dates issued. The writer came across the coin shown directly above when he was still residing in New Jersey while attending a major show back in March, 19/93 at the Baltimore Convention Center, an almost three hours drive from his home. It was the Second hair style sub-type which was the most common of the four major varieties and sold for only **$325** back then. Today PCGS COINFACTS lists its current retail price of **$1,050**.

The Draped Bust Large cent was struck from **1796 thru 1807** which included two scarcities, the 1799 with a reported mintage of just $42,540 with two die varieties including a 1799/8 and the 1804 with a reported mintage of just 96,500. The closest the author got to obtain an example of the date was the beautiful Gallery Mint 1799 specimen.

A magnificent Galley Mint *copy* of the original 1799 Large Cent
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

Collecting Early U.S. Copper Large Cents

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

An 1803 Draped Bust Large Cent, S-254, R1 graded AU-50 by EAC
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

In 1803, the Philadelphia Mint struck 3,131,691 large cents, slightly less than the 1802 and the 1803 dated coin shown above is considered a common die variety. It is fairly well struck and has lots of eye appeal, so considering its age and its fairly high grade; it saw little circulation and must have been saved in some family heirloom and afterwards by a coin collector. The details are fairly sharp and the coin displays lots of eye appeal.

An 1804 Draped Bust Large Cent, S-256, R1 graded VG-6 by EAC
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

By comparison, the 1804 specimen **with a reported mintage of just 96,500**--which presumably circulated heavily during the early years of our republic--is extremely scarce in all grades, it still cost plenty when the writer discovered the extremely low example shone above at the 2012 ANA Convention held in Philadelphia. Why did he buy it then? For one thing, it was "original" with a still chocolatey color appearance despite its heavy wear, and since it circulated heavily, it represented American history going back nine generations. If the reader enlarges the page to 200% you will still be able to observe the coin's major features.

An 1806 Draped Bust Large Cent, S-270 graded XF-40 by EAC
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

The final three years of the Draped Bust large cent series were struck in far larger numbers and are easier to locate if still at a price in the grades shown above. A Very Fine-20 example--if chocolaty brown—is worth buying and was somewhat costly. The XF-40 example of the 1806 dated large cent shown directly above costing the writer plenty when the author acquired it in 2004 at another Baltimore Convention show. It has since doubled in price since then, so he is glad he obtained the coin when he did. Upon magnification, the coin displays all its important features with no blemishes. The Draped Bust type by our first Chief Engraver, Robert Scot was a work of art.

Collecting Classic Head Large cents

An 1808 Classic Head large Cent, S-279, R1, graded VF-25 by EAC
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

Beginning in 1807, John Reich--a talented emigrant engraver from Bavaria--was hired during the Jefferson administration to create a new design type for all our coinage. In **1808**, Reich replaced the *Draped Bust* type on the large cent with an equally attractive ***Classic Head*** design that would continue for seven years. Reich added the thirteen stars to circle around the figure of Miss Liberty on the obverse which was absent on Scot's type On the reverse he displayed a thicker wreath surrounding **ONE CENT** over a short line but removed the fraction **1/100** that had appeared at the bottom of Scot's reverse. The 1808 example shown directly above had a reported mintage of just over one million with 1,007,000 released by the Philadelphia Mint.

The writer acquired the coin shown above at a ***Suburban Washington DC/Baltimore show*** away back in late March, 1983. **EAC** for "***Early American Coinage"*** that has tended to grade early copper coinage more stringently than PCGS, NGC, Anacs or CAC, so the example above might actually grade slightly higher. It cost $675. Today it retails for $1,150. **One must save up before each show!**

An 1811 Classic Head Large Cent, S287, R2 graded VF-35 by EAC
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

The reported mintage for the 1811 Large cent was just **218,025** pieces and is a lot scarcer than those dates with one-million or more strikes, so obtaining a **VF-35 example of the 1811 Classic Head large cent** shown directly above away back in September 1994 at the East coast EXPO Center in northern New Jersey turned out to be a fine investment as well as acquiring a lovely chocolatey coin. It cost $1,250. Today that coin retails for $2,800 according to PCGS COINFACTS.

An 1814 Classic Head Large Cent, S-294 (Crosslet *4*)) graded AU-50

In 1814, due to the War of 1812 with England, there were only 357,830 large cents coined produced in 1814 Classic Head Large Cent the Plain 4 and Crosslet ***4*** equal in value. This is the author's nicest example for the series and it cost plenty even back then but worth it

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

The Early Coronet Large Cent Series

An 1816 Coronet large Cent certified MS-64 by NGC
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

It is clear that no actual legitimate Classical Head U.S. cents were dated 1815 except a few that were made from 1813 specimens later on to be dated with that year. It is also now believed that the 1816 Coronet large cent shown above was actually completed in late December, 1815, but with the 1816 date. A good thing too, because later in January, 1816, a fire broke out at the U.S Mint which caused it to cease producing coins for the entire year with no other coin denominations displaying the 1816 date other than Coronet type the large cent shown above.

What isn't as clear as the writer would like is the photo shown above which shows dark shading on the left side of the obverse **of a coin that was actually certified MS-64 by NGC**. It is now believed that it was Robert Scot, our first official coin engraver--who created the new Coronet large cent and while many more recent numismatists have criticized the design type as unworthy, it actually appeared attractive to the U.S. citizens of that period and beyond.

In 1816, 2,820,982 Coronet Large cents were struck and while it wasn't a record, it was the most since 1803. The 1816 Coronet large cent is a fairly common date.

The new design type has been criticized by numerous numismatists over the years but the hair style chosen by the engraver may have been in vogue back then as displayed in this lovely painting of the era on the left.

An American Duchess

The Half-Cents of the Early Years of our Nation

A 1795 Liberty Cap with pole Half-cent, C-1, R3 graded VG-8 by EAC
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

It was Alexander Hamilton who suggested that we added the half-cent to the U.S. coin denominations suggesting that the average citizens would find the coin useful and he right.

The first half cents types were struck only five years, from in 1793 thru 1797 usually in small amounts. The Liberty Cap design was created by John Smith Gardner and most dates are beyond the cost for most collectors today. The 1795 dated coin had a reported mintage of 139,690 and is the most common. The die Variety 1 obverse displays a faint pole descending from the Miss Liberty's lower neck. The numeral **1** is actually the same shape as the **I** in **LIBERTY** and is more accessible in the lower grades, so the writer was as able to acquire it *on line* away back in 1995 at a cost of **$460**. Today it retails for **$1,500** according to PCGS COINFACTS.

An 1800 Draped Bust Half-cent graded VF-30 by EAC
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

After a two years hiatus, in 1800, the striking of the half-cent was resumed, but with our first Chief Engraver, Robert Scot's Draped Bust design type which appeared to be a great improvement from the point of artistry. The design was the same as the large cent but only 23.mm in diameter compared with the 29mm for the cent. The Philadelphia Mint produced **202,908** half-cents that year, a record that would be broken four years later in 1804 when 1,055,312 were coined. This coin was acquired at the FUN show in Orlando, FL in January 2004. It cost $275. Today it is worth $500 retail according to PCGS' COINFACTS, so it's still a bargain considering its small increase se in price. Grading VF-30, a coin's appearance begins to flourish especially if it is free of blemishes. The Draped Bust design ended in 1808. It took a while, but the author was eventually able to collect a full date set if the Draped Bust half-cents including the 1802/0 overdate, not shone.

An 1809 Classic Head Half-cent grading XF-45 by EAC
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

The 1809 Classic Head half-cent was first released in 1809 with a reported mintage of 1,154,572 There were two major varieties, the regular 1809 which is extremely common and the 1809/6 (or upside down 9 as it is believed to be the case.) which is less so but still common enough to a acquire at reasonable prices as well. The mintage for the 1810 was just 215,000 but the 181; the scarcest with only 63,140 made and is the key date of the entire series intended for cdirnculation.

An 1811 Classic Head half-cent, C-2, R3 graded VG 8 by EAC
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

The writer acquired the rare 1811 Classic Head half-cent back in June 1991 from a dealer who specialized in Early American Copper coinage at a price of **$250**. Today, in the same grade it is valued at a figure of **$700** with recent auction winning bid graded VG-8 selling for **$528**. Upon viewing the coin on Stacks-Bowers' in the same grade, the coin did not appear as original or anywhere near as attractive as the slightly darkish chocolatey coin shown directly above. After 1811, no half-cents were struck until 1825. Most of the later ones are cheaper.

There is lots of wonderful United States copper coinage that are worth acquiring even if they are graded far below uncirculated condition. They were the coins that most of our distant forefathers used.

Augusta Coin Club
Minutes of the Meeting
August 21 2025

The meeting was called to Order by President Shelby Plooster. We had record 54 members present, a recent record plus two guests.

The Secretary's Report:
The July 2025 Minutes were not read, a copy kept on file.

The Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer, Stacey Plooster reported that we currently have $17,597.58 deposited in the Bank.

The Prize Winners:
Bill Cunningham and John Attaway, each won 1 oz. Silver Eagles.
Burles Johnson was the winner of the raffle of $80.00

Show & Tells:
We had a record of Numismatic Show & Tell Exhibits at the August 2025 meeting.

Everett Price displayed a few Flying Eagle cents.

Gene Belair displayed the rare Canadian dollars struck from 1948 thru 1951; also some high-price 1921 Canadian fifty-cent pieces as well a as some 1921 dated Canadian silver nickels.

Mike Joesbury displayed a 1797 British Half –Penny.

A newcomer displayed a Trade dollar.

The Program:
Arno Safran presented a program titled, **"America and the U.S. Coins of the 1870s"**

Arno displayed not only coins from his collection but historic photos of American customs and politics of the decade. He arranged the specific coins he displayed using different denominations for each date beginning with an **1870** Liberty Seated dime graded MS-62, followed by an **1871** Liberty Seated half-dollar graded AU-58, a **1872** two-cent copper piece graded XF-45 followed by a **1873** Three-cent "Open 3" nickel piece certified MS -66 and **1874** Shield nickel certified MS-62.

For **1875**, he displayed two coins, an 1875 Indian Head cent graded MS-64, an 1875 Liberty Seated quarter also graded MS-64 followed by the scarce **1876** silver 20c piece graded MS-63 proof-like cameo. The coin that followed was an **1877** Trade dollar certified MS-62 by PCGS that he recently acquired at the Spring 2025 Augusta coin Club show, The Transitional date Trade dollar and first year of the Morgan dollar of **1878** and finally a n uncirculated set of the U.S coinage of **1879** (excluding gold).

In-between, Arno displayed **photos of various dress styles for men and women of the period, the architecture style of the large city buildings** and life as it appeared during the decade.

President Shelby Plooster presented Arno with a Certificate of Appreciation for his fine program.

Old Business:
At our annual Board of Directors meeting held in February, 2025 our rent to use we learned that the rent to use The Sunrise Grill" where we meet was raised from $50 a month to $200. As a result, Perfect attendance allowing free membership for a year has now been suspended due to these higher rental costs the club has to pay. So, this is also a reminder to please pay your $15.00 annual dues if you haven't already remitted since that has remained unchanged despite the higher rental costs..

The 2026 Red Book is now available from Leaphart Coins, at a cost of $12.00 to our club members. These are worth having if you are new to coin collecting and even if you're not!

Upcoming Coin Shows

The Sumner, South Carolina Show Sept 5 & 6th

The Atlanta Coin Show, Sept 7 2025, Marietta, GA

The Camden, SC. Show Sept. 19th, Camden, SC

Our Monthly Coin Club Auction
Burles Johnson ran the Auction which featured ten lots. Tommy Rhoden served as Bids Recorder while Everett Price and Shelby Plooster delivered the goods.

Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway

A Tiny Little Masterpiece filler

An 1873 three-cent silver piece graded Proof MS-61 by PCGS
[Enlarge the page to fill monitor screen or 150% to better view the coin.]

In the year, 1873, the U.S. Mint struck the most U.S. coin types plus a series of varieties than any years both prior and afterwards.

As a result of the ”Coinage Act of 1873”, sometimes referred to as the “Crime” of ‘73”, the copper two cent piece, **the silver three cent piece**, (like the coin shown above), the half-dime and finally, the Liberty head dollar were discontinued. In the case of the latter, it was replaced by the Trade Dollar later in the year but that coin was originally introduced to be used in trade with China and the East Asian nations.

The silver three-cent type piece was first introduced in 1851 as part of Congress’s desire to put acceptable silver coinage into the nation since the discovery of gold in California **in 1848** that soon caused our silver coins to be higher in value in their relation to gold with the result that many dimes and especially quarters and half-dollars were sent to Europe for their higher silver value to be melted and later used for European coinage. By 1863, the three cent silver coin intended for circulation were being struck in small to tiny numbers each year and in 1872, only 1,000 were coined for circulation, so by 1873 the Mint decided to remove the three cent silver coin forever.

From the tiniest coin to the largest!
Another interesting aspect of the U.S, Coinage of the 1870s

The transitional silver dollar dates of 1878
The 1878-S Trade dollar above the 1878-S Morgan dollar

A s part of the Bland-Allison Act of 1878, the Trade dollar was last struck for circulation in 1878 being replaced later in that year with the Morgan dollar. From 1879 thru 1883, the Trade dollar was struck in Proof only with ten examples produced in 1884 and five in 1885 while the Morgan dollars were struck in the multi millions. This was supposedly needed to get U.S. silver coinage back into circulation.

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